



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

ACS eNewsletter  
January 2013  
First edition

### Meet Duane C. Butcher



After serving for more than three years as **Chief of Mission** at the Embassy of the United States in Bucharest, [Ambassador Mark H. Gitenstein](#) has completed his diplomatic assignment and has returned to private life in the United States.

[Mr. Duane C. Butcher](#), the current Deputy Chief of Mission, has become Charge d'affaires ad interim as of December 14, 2012. He will serve in this capacity until the next U.S. Ambassador to Romania arrives. (continued on page 2)

## Reaching Out to Americans Abroad

International Tax Gap Series



Globalization continues to affect us all. Businesses are no longer defined by national borders. Individuals and capital move freely from one country to another. It is estimated that more than 7 million Americans reside outside of the United States (not including military personnel). The IRS recognizes that it must find innovative ways to meet the needs of the growing number of U.S. taxpayers who live in other countries, so a special tax page has been added to the IRS web site that specifically addresses the tax issues of [U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#).

This new tax page contains a wealth of information on where and when to file, and how to get tax help. It also includes links to many more international tax topics, such as information on reporting foreign bank accounts and how to take advantage of tax provisions like the foreign tax credit and foreign earned income exclusion. The page will soon be linked to the 263 U.S. Embassy and Consulate homepages throughout the world. (continued on page 3)

### Stay connected

YOUTUBE



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



FLICKR



PODCAST



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

[Monthly Headlines](#)

[Duane C. Butcher](#)

[Reaching out to Americans Abroad](#)

[Consular Corner](#)

[This Month in U.S. History](#)

[January 2013 Calendar](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST  
ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV

TEL: +40-21-270-6000 FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL +40-21-200-3300  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML).





EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

## DUANE C. BUTCHER



Chargé d'affaires ad interim, Mr. Duane C. Butcher  
(Lucian Crusoveanu, Public Diplomacy Office)

**Duane C. Butcher** assumed his duties in Bucharest as **Deputy Chief of Mission** in August 18, 2011. As of December 14, 2012, he is serving as **Chargé d'affaires ad interim**.

He served as Deputy Chief of Mission from June 2008 to July 2010 and Chargé d'affaires ad interim (CDA) from July 2010 to June 2011 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Prior to his service in Tashkent, DCM Butcher was Consul General in Hamburg, Germany (2004-2007). He has served overseas as Management Counselor in Belgrade, Yugoslavia (2001-2004); Administrative Officer in Bucharest, Romania (2000-2001) and Baku, Azerbaijan (1994-1996); and as General Services Officer in Muscat, Oman (1988-1990). In Washington, D.C., he served as Post Management Officer and Senior Post Management Officer for the Newly Independent States in the Executive Office of the Bureau of European Affairs (1996-1998). He has received State Department Superior Honor and Meritorious Honor awards.

Mr. Butcher is the son of a Foreign Service Officer and was born in Ankara, Turkey. He went to international schools in Germany, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, and Kenya. He graduated from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota, in 1987. He is married to Nazilia Butcher, and has two sons: Kennan, and Cameron.

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES  
4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST  
ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV  
TEL: +40-21-270-6000 FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL **+40-21-200-3300**  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html).



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES BUCHAREST • ROMANIA



Also, many Americans who live overseas are already familiar with Publication 54, Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad. But a more concise brochure has now been developed to help direct overseas citizens and residents to helpful tax resources, Publication 4732, Federal Tax Information for U.S. Taxpayers Living Abroad.

The IRS is eager to “meet the needs of all of our customers, both domestically and in the international arena. We continue to look for ways to make taxes less taxing.”

### References and Links

[U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#)

[Publication 4732](#), Federal Tax Information for U.S. Taxpayers Living Abroad

[Publication 54](#), Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad

Return to:

[The International Tax Gap Series](#)

*Page Last Reviewed or Updated: 2012-08-03*



The IRS has updated their website for U.S. taxpayers living overseas. This website contains the basic tax information plus links to other detailed topics such as:

- foreign earned income exclusion
- foreign tax credit
- reporting foreign bank accounts
- Fulbright grants
- state taxes
- and [much more](#)

Visit the IRS website for [U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad](#)



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES

4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST

ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV

TEL: +40-21-270-6000

FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL +40-21-200-3300  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html).



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

# CONSULAR CORNER

## General Information

### Important Announcement

**All non-emergency American Citizen Services (renewal of U.S. passports, Consular Reports of Birth Abroad, and Notarial services) will be provided by appointment only.**

### Telephone inquiries:

Please call our American Citizen Services (ACS) Unit in the afternoon between 1:30 and 4:30, Monday through Friday. The morning hours are reserved for visitors with appointments. Therefore, only emergency phone calls (see instructions below) will be answered during the morning hours.

The number to call is (+40 21) 270-6000.

### Emergencies:

In case of an emergency, i.e. to call about the arrest, hospitalization or death of an American citizen, call the above number between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. In case of an emergency outside these business hours, i.e. evenings, weekends or holidays, please call the after hours Duty Officer: Tel.: (+40 21) 200-3300. However, please be aware that no immigration visa or ESTA information is available at this number.

**E-mail:** [acsbucharest@state.gov](mailto:acsbucharest@state.gov) (general U.S. citizen inquiries, not related to US visas)



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

Please enroll or update  
your Information by  
visiting

[travelregistration.state.gov](http://travelregistration.state.gov).



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES  
4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST  
ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV

TEL: +40-21-270-6000 FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL +40-21-200-3300  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML).



## EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES BUCHAREST · ROMANIA

**January 2013**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Embassy Closed 1	Embassy Closed 2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	Embassy Closed 21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

easiteach

### This Month in U.S. History

January 1, 1863—Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect

President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Ordering the liberation of slaves in states still in rebellion as “an act of justice, warranted by the Constitution, upon military necessity.” Three million slaves were declared to be “then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

Source [www.history.com](http://www.history.com)



AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES  
4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST  
ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV  
TEL: +40-21-270-6000 FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL +40-21-200-3300  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML).





EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES  
BUCHAREST • ROMANIA

IMPORTANT  
ANNOUNCEMENT !

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on January 21, 2013 to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



**Do I have to file a tax return?**

In general, ALL US citizens living and working abroad are required by law to file an annual US tax return. If you are supposed to file and do not, you could be subject to civil penalties or criminal prosecution under U.S. federal law. Even if you are certain that you owe no taxes, you are still required to report your income and show (if applicable) that you are eligible for the foreign earned income exclusion. If you would be required to file if you were living in the US, then you are required to file while living overseas.

We continue to encourage all U.S. citizens to *register their trips and residence abroad* to facilitate our communications with them in the event of an emergency. If you have any questions about the *Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)*, please, email us at [ACSBucharest@state.gov](mailto:ACSBucharest@state.gov).



Smart  
Traveler  
Enrollment  
Program

AMERICAN CITIZEN SERVICES  
4-6 LIVIU LIBRESCU BLVD., SECTOR 1 BUCHAREST  
ACSBUCHAREST@STATE.GOV  
TEL: +40-21-270-6000 FAX: +40-21-200-3578

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY INVOLVING AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, PLEASE, CALL +40-21-200-3300  
FOR INFORMATION ABOUT PUBLIC HOURS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://ROMANIA.USEMBASSY.GOV/ACS/INDEX.HTML](http://romania.usembassy.gov/acs/index.html).

